

## NEWS RELEASE

# THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY

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## 60,000 pistol-packing federal bureaucrats show why people fear the government

*New study shows that federal "gun control" is needed, say Libertarians*

WASHINGTON, DC — A new report revealing that almost 60,000 federal employees now carry weapons has prompted the Libertarian Party to come out in favor of gun control — for the federal government.

According to a study by the General Accounting Office (GAO), an astounding 60,000 government employees in 45 different agencies now carry guns as a routine part of their job.

And it's not just law enforcement agents: Poultry inspectors, park rangers, and disaster aid workers are all allowed to carry weapons — in addition to special agents from the Small Business Administration, NASA, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and even the Department of Veterans Affairs, noted Steve Dasbach, national chairman of the Libertarian Party.

**"Federal employees have gone nuts — gun nuts,"** he said. "It's time to impose a waiting period on the federal government, while the American people conduct a background check on these armed and potentially dangerous bureaucrats."

According to the GAO, the number of federal employees with guns is growing rapidly — up by 20% in the last 10 years. Even worse, federal employees are getting more *powerful* weapons. According to the GAO, the Energy Department now has access to machine guns, and other agencies can summon tanks and military helicopters. In addition, the National Park Service and the Department of Health & Human Services now have their own SWAT teams.

### **Machines guns? Tanks? SWAT teams? What's going on?**

Dasbach said he has a theory: "Congress has passed over 3,000 criminal laws, and federal agencies have churned out hundreds of thousands of regulations that carry criminal penalties. The result is that ordinary Americans run a constant risk of violating laws they've never even heard of as federal agents scramble to enforce those laws at the point of a gun."

**And Libertarians aren't the only ones who have noticed this disturbing trend, he said.** For example, Congressman Ron Paul (R-TX) last month blasted the "massive buildup of a virtual army of armed regulators." And Greg Lojein, legislative counsel for the American Civil Liberties Union, said the acquisition of "heavy equipment" like tanks and helicopters by federal agencies is "more characteristic of war than law enforcement."

"No wonder Americans don't trust their government; their government doesn't trust them," said Dasbach. "But trust doesn't grow out of the barrel of a gun — or from the sight of a pistol-packing poultry inspector. These heavily armed bureaucrats should remember that."

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